



SPARK GAP

Vol. 34, Issue 5, May 2017 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-four years*

On Our MARC:

Ladies and Gentleman, start your radio!!

May starts a summer of activities. We have the Dayton Hamfest in May, the Strawberry Fest and Field day in June. September brings the Heartnut Fest and the Radio Club yearly picnic. I hope everyone will get a chance to stop by to as many activities as possible.

I would like to send a big thanks to Bruce Tisdale, K9ICP and Chris Frederick, KQ9Y for handling the open house. Bruce sent letters out to about 20 Officials inviting them to the open house. Out of those letters, one person came. Duane Burgess from the Sheriff's office. Although Bruce had to work that day, he was there till about 9 and brought coffee and donuts. Chris spent many hours down in the radio room getting it ready. If you didn't have a chance to get down to the room during the open house, please stop by and see the work that was done.

No speaker for this month since most people will be at Dayton. Hope everyone that will be attending Dayton has a great time. If you are not going to Dayton, hope to see you at the meeting on Saturday.

Jacki, KI6QOG
President



Birthdays for the month of May:

***KC9GCH-Linda Harshbarger
N9AWM-Andrew Murrey
KU9V-Anthony Stokes
K9NTZ-Kevin Nuetzman
KA9QBF-Joseph Lovrini
KC9ZTM-Thomas Genera***

Open House

Following months of planning, packing, moving and arranging the MARC club radio room was put on display May 13th. The Saturday morning open house brought out dozens of club members and even a representative from the Johnson County Sheriff's Department to check out the new facilities. Club VP Bruce Tisdale-K9ICP organized the event complete with eye opening coffee, juice and donuts.

Chris Frederick-KQ9Y and several club members spent countless hours organizing, cleaning and modifying the room and equipment into a first class Emergency Communications room. On display and in use were several VHF, UHF and HF radios in addition to APRS tracking and mapping. Several club members checked out their access to the WebEOC, a universal emergency operations computer program used throughout the state of Indiana for coordinating disasters and special events.

Johnson county sheriff jail commander, Deputy Duane Burgess, stopped by to tour the room. Club members talked with him about how our RACES group and Amateur Radio can be used for emergency and disaster situations. He expressed interest in getting his Technician Class license.

The MARC radio room is open to all club members and is not limited to emergencies. A list of club members with special access cards to the Prosecutors' building and to our radio room will soon be published so anyone can use the equipment. Check the midstatehams.org/ website for details.

Story and pictures - w8ish



Entrance to the MARC Open House



EOC discussion



Deputy Duane Burgess stopped by



John Wampler checking out the radios

ARES® Members: Must See's, Must Do's at 2017 Hamvention® *This Week*

The venerable Hamvention®, at the new location -- Greene County Fairgrounds -- in Xenia, Ohio, is this week -- Friday, May 19, through Sunday, May 21. This year, Hamvention is the ARRL Ohio State Convention. Here is a guide for public event/emergency/disaster response communicators planning on attending. First, check out the ARRL Expo, a must for any conventioneer. ARRL will have a huge presence at Hamvention and welcomes all. ARRL Expo features a large store of ARRL pubs and other items, and a fantastic array of exhibits. Download the ARRL Expo Exhibit and Activities Guide. Meet ARRL leadership and key staff including ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1U, who is responsible for proposing, developing and administering ARRL emergency preparedness, emergency and disaster response initiatives and related programs at the national HQ level.



ARRL FIELD DAY 2017

Field day will take place at the new MARC Radio Room on June 24th to June 25th .

Operators are needed for this National event and we urge all HAMS to take part and participate. Field Day is open to all license classes to operate the radios as well as keep track of contacts that are made. If you have a Technician license here is your chance to make some contacts on HF. The public is also encouraged to stop by and see HAM radio in action

Please contact Jacki KI6QOG for more information and let her know if you want to help out and make contacts.

For more information about FIELD DAY 2017 please see the ARRL.ORG website for all rules of operation .

.... Ed.

HELP WANTED

The MARC WA9RDF Weekly Net is currently looking for interested HAMs to be the Net Control Station (NCS) for the weekly net. Being the NCS is a great way to learn net control procedures and how basically any amateur radio net operates. There is a script that you will use each week and it is available in the download section of the MARC web site. If you had ever wanted to be an NCS this is a good opportunity to expand in your education and service to HAM radio. A schedule is made weeks in advance so you can plan ahead and if something comes up and you can not be NCS for your week arrangements can be made.

If you are interested please contact Steve Carmean, K9DY for more information and to answer any questions.

..... Ed.

Disruptive Ham Behavior

By Bruce Tisdale K9ICP

I've been a licensed ham from the mid-1970s, which has allowed to make many new friends and enjoy a wonderful hobby. A deep tradition of friendly support and honorable conduct has been at the core of our hobby since its origins. However, I have noticed in recent year a change in the general attitude many hams.

Up through the 1980s and early 1990s most hams were still helpful, supportive and collaborative. If you needed help or made a miscue on the air someone might say something, but did it in a respectable way. Much to my disappointment, this code of conduct/ethics has changed. These days name calling, belittling others, or intentional interfering with communication has become more common. I have known several long time hams who give up the hobby and sold their equipment because of their frustration with the rude, inconsiderate behavior that was being acted out on the air.

At times it is hard not to retaliate and/or be drawn into the bad behavior. This would of course only escalate an already dysfunctional situation and further the mischief of those who seem to enjoy this type of behavior. The successful growth of licensed hams has been a wonderful sign of the hobby's relevance and continued importance in our communities. The negative side is that we have drawn into the hobby some people who like to hide behind their microphones and view themselves as above ethics and courtesy. Some claim this is the result of easier access to getting a ticket. While this may be partially true, many of these same hams would rather complain than set a good example.

I recognize that I am not the first to express this concern, but I hope that I can reinforce many others who have recommended their support for the "DX Code of Conduct". If you aren't familiar with this code please take a few moments to read it. If you are familiar with it read it again. While this code refers to DX operators, the code is applicable to all hams.

The bottom line is that we all need to be part of the solution and set a good example, not just complain about it.

..... *de K9ICP*

FCC Personal Radio Service Revisions Will Affect GMRS, FRS, CB, Other Part 95 Devices

Soon it will be legal for CBers to work DX on 11 meters. In a lengthy *Report and Order (R&O)* in a proceeding (WT Docket No. 10-119) dating back 7 years, the FCC has announced rule changes affecting the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), the Family Radio Service (FRS), the Citizens Band Radio Service (CBRS or "CB"), and other applications that fall under the FCC's Part 95 Personal Radio Services (PRS) rules and regulations. Part 95 devices typically are low-power units that communicate over shared spectrum and, with some exceptions, do not require a license.

"This draft *Report and Order* completes a thorough review of the PRS rules in order to modernize them, remove outdated requirements, and reorganize them to make it easier to find information," the FCC said in a summary attached to the *R&O*.

GMRS and FRS devices are used for personal communication over several miles; compact FRS handhelds, often sold in pairs, are widely available. While GMRS and FRS share spectrum, GMRS provides for greater communications range and requires an FCC license; FRS does not.



"The rules will increase the number of communications channels for both GMRS and FRS, expand digital capabilities to GMRS (currently allowed for FRS), and increase the power/range for certain FRS channels to meet consumer demands for longer range communications (while maintaining higher power capabilities for licensed GMRS)," the FCC explained.

The amended rules eventually will eliminate combination FRS/GMRS radios for the most part, but allow up to 2 W PEP output for FRS transceivers. "[M]any current users of GMRS/FRS combination radios do not obtain licenses to operate over the GMRS frequencies in those radios," the FCC said. "Much of this problem likely arises as a result of the mass consumer marketing of combination devices for sale to the public in large quantities to users who do not know about or do not understand the licensing requirements attached to such radios and obligations associated with operating in the GMRS."



The FCC said it no longer will certify FRS devices that incorporate GMRS capabilities or capabilities of other services. Existing GMRS/FRS combination radios that operate at power levels of less than 2 W ERP will be reclassified as FRS devices; existing GMRS/FRS radios that operate above that power level will be reclassified as GMRS devices, requiring an individual license. Radios that can transmit on GMRS repeater input channels will continue to be licensed individually and not by rule.

Inexpensive Family Radio Service handhelds are widely available. [Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, photo]

The FCC said changes to the decades-old Citizens Band (CB) rules will remove outdated requirements, including certain labeling requirements. DXing on Citizens Band will become legal too. Once the new rules are effective, CBers will be allowed to contact stations outside of the FCC-imposed -- but widely disregarded -- 155.3-mile distance limit. The revised CB rules further clarify how hands-free devices can be used with CB radios and will allow the use of wireless microphones with CB radios. The FCC left in place the current power limits for the CB Radio Service.

Most of the new Part 95 rules will become effective 30 days after their publication in *The Federal Register*.

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ARNewsline Followup

This is the link to the virtual QSL museum that was referenced in the Newsline. There is quite a lot there for anyone interested in ham radio DX history, or just looking at old QSL cards. The link is <http://lesnouvellesdx.fr/>

..... *de K9DY*

Here are the activities for the month of June

June 9th-Strawberry Fest-set up starts at 9. We are scheduled to be there from 10am to 6m.

June 14th-dinner social at Jockamo's Pizza in Greenwood at 5:45..

June 17th-monthly meeting at REMC building at 8am

June 24th and 25th. Setup starts at 10am at new radio room.

Hope to see as many people possible this month.

Gotta get going, the cruise ship is calling me!!!!

Jacki KI6QOG

Growing the Ranks vs. Growing the Enjoyment

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



Because I teach amateur radio classes and publish a series of popular amateur radio license study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/), I often get kudos for "growing the ranks." In fact, Gordon West, WB6NOA, told me this just last week, when he stopped by the booth I was in at the Dayton Hamvention. I'm paraphrasing a little, but after telling me that he's heard good things about my study guides, he said something like, "You're doing good work in helping get more people into ham radio."

People say that as if this is—or should be—the ultimate goal of teaching a license class. While this may be one of the goals, if that's your primary goal, I think that you're barking up the wrong tree.

In a way, creating more hams is selfish. If there are more licensed amateur radio operators, they say, then amateur radio will have more political clout with the FCC and with Congress, making it easier to pass legislation like the Amateur Radio Parity Act. While this may certainly help the new ham down the line, its main thrust is to reduce restrictions on those who are currently hams.

My goal in teaching amateur radio classes isn't to create more hams. Instead, my goal is to help more people have fun with ham radio. The first step in helping people have fun with ham radio is, of course, helping them get their license. I do that by publishing my study guides and teaching ham classes.

The next step, and I'm only really getting started on this right now, is to help people learn what they need to know to become better ham radio operators. That's why I got a little excited when I saw the article, "Making a Good Hobby Better Through Post-Licensing Enrichment" by Tim Busch, N0CKR in the latest issue of [Radio Waves](#), the ARRL's email newsletter for amateur radio instructors.

In the article, Tim describes several activities that his club encourages, including a "new ham net" and the Field Day GOTA station, but he also details a program of "mini classes" that will teach specific skills related to ham radio. These include:

- Programming Radios and Getting on the Air
- Soldering 101
- Multimeter 101
- Build and Use a Roll-Up J-Pole Antenna
- Build and Use a Satellite Antenna
- Foxhunts
- Operating Digital Modes: IRLP, AllStar, D-Star, EchoLink, etc.
- Remote Operation
- Software-Defined Radios
- Transitioning from VHF/UHF to HF Operating
- Chasing Awards
- Learn CW
- Contesting

Tim writes, ‘Each class is intended to be no more than two hours at a sitting, so they can be held before a monthly club meeting. The variety of subject matter allows many club members to get involved in leading a topic. Materials kits are prepared in advance, so students walk away with practical items they can use at home.’”

I think this is a great set of classes, and I plan to try some of these in the fall. A couple of other topics that occur to me are:

- Power Supplies 101
- Mobile Operation 101
- ARRL 101
- RFI/TVI 101

Helping new hams—and old hams—have more fun with amateur radio is a lot more satisfying to me than just “growing the ranks.” It would be nice to say that we have a million licensed radio amateurs in the U.S., but I think it would be a lot more valuable to the hobby to say that a larger percentage of licensed hams were active and enjoying ham radio. I know that, for me, increasing the number of active, engaged hams would be more personally satisfying than simply creating a lot of new licensees.

When he's not working on helping new hams, Dan operates CW on the HF bands and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. If you have a good idea for a new ham "mini class," e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

06/9,10/2017 – White River Fire Department Strawberry Festival TBA

**06/17/2017 – 0800 - MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location,
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

06/24/2017 – ARRL Field Day, location TBA

**07/15/2017 – 0800 - MARC Monthly club meeting at the New Location,
Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

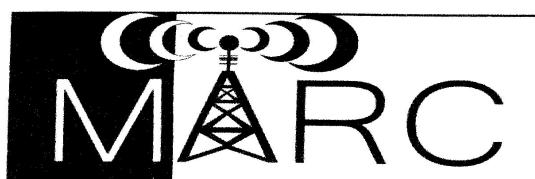
08/26/2017 – Greenwood Community Band Festival, more information to follow.

08/19/2017- 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the New Location.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

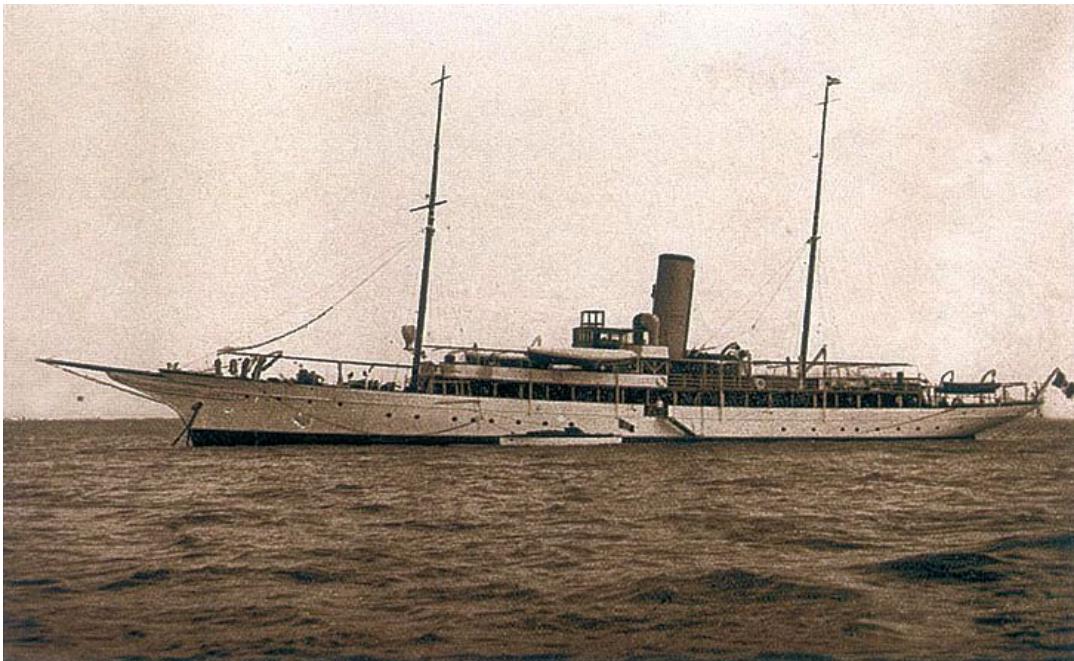
09/16/2017– 0800 - MARC Monthly club and annual picnic, more information to follow.

09/23/2017 – Greenwood Marching Band Invitational, Greenwood High School. More info to follow.



PARTS AND PIECES

- **CERT TRAINING** --- Tim White, CERT instructor for Johnson County has set a date for a CERT training on July 22 and 23 starting at 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day. The training will be held at the Johnson County REMC. PLEASE NOTE: this is a tentative date for the classes. There will be more information to follow for this important training.
- **Chris KQ9Y**, mentioned at the June MARC club meeting that the radio room is fully operational and open for members to use. There will soon be a list of club members that has access to the room made available, so if you want to use the radios there arrangements can be made. Chris also mentioned that there is room at our new location for another HF antenna at a future date.



Resting Place of Keel from Marconi's Floating Lab *Elettra* to be "Museum Ships" Event Site:

The resting place of the keel from wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi's floating laboratory -- the yacht *Elettra* -- will be the site of a special event in conjunction with the annual [Museum Ships Weekend Event](#), June 3-4, sponsored by the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station [NJ2BB](#). Marconi named his youngest daughter after the *Elettra*, which means "electron" in Italian. The *Elettra* special event, under the sponsorship of the Guglielmo Marconi Foundation, will use the call sign IQ4FE. Members of the Italian Amateur Radio Association (ARI) [Fidenza Radio Club](#) will operate from the vicinity of the Marconi Museum in Pontecchio, where the vessel's keel is kept. -- *Thanks to Cristiano Cornini, IW4CLV, ARI Fidenza Radio Club President*

MID-SATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month
at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeater:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Bruce Tisdale -- K9ICP
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H
Treasurer: Marlys Barr – KD9BHM
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

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Franklin, Indiana
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month



Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.